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1974/08/09

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Authority NND 979520
by JWF NARA Date 9/30/97

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TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE VIA VOYAGER CHANNELS WH42541

TO: U.S. LIAISON OFFICE PEKING FLASH
FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE
FOR: AMBASSADOR BRUCE FROM THE SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER DELIVER IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO CHAIRMAN MAO. YOU SHOULD ASK FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER CHOU TO DO THIS, INFORMING HIM IN ADVANCE OF THE REASON FOR YOUR CALL. IF HE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, YOU SHOULD DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO WHOMEVER HE DESIGNATES, AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

AS ONE OF MY FIRST ACTS AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO REAFFIRM THE BASIC CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL AND OUR POLICY TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN PARTICULAR.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL PURSUE THE SAME BASIC APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT UNDER PRESIDENT NIXON. I SHARE THE PERSPECTIVES ON THE BASIC FORCES AT WORK IN THE WORLD THAT HE SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE SET FORTH. THE UNITED STATES WILL MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH AND RESOLVE NEEDED TO CONDUCT A STRONG INTERNATIONAL ROLE. HE WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PRESERVE WORLD STABILITY. OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PEOPLE'S-REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL REMAIN A CARDINAL ELEMENT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY; WE CONTINUE TO SEE A STRONG, INDEPENDENT CHINA AS BEING IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. THESE VIEWS HAVE SOLID BIPARTISAN BACKING IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IN MY OWN CASE WERE STRENGTHENED BY MY VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY, I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO STAY ON IN MY ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS MY FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT. I HAVE INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF KEEPING YOUR GOVERNMENT FULLY INFORMED ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES AFFECTING CHINESE

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INTERESTS.

WITH RESPECT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I FULLY ENDORSE AND INTEND TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITMENTS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND REAFFIRMED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. WE WILL ADHERE TO OUR POLICY CONCERNING TAIWAN THAT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO YOU AND PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER VISIT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, AT A TIME TO BE AGREED UPON BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND TO CHART IN SPECIFIC TERMS THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

THERE WILL BE NO HIGHER PRIORITY DURING MY TENURE AS PRESIDENT THAN ACCELERATING THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE EMPARKED UPON AFTER TWO DECADES OF SEPARATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO ENSURE THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEGUN WILL ENDURE.

PRESIDENT FORD
END TEXT

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE SECRETARY TODAY HANDED TO AMBASSADOR HUANG CHEN THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI

BEGINNIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I WANTED TO SEND YOU SOME BRIEF PERSONAL OBERVATIONS AS THE UNITED STATES PASSES THROUGH THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASKED ME TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS SECRETARY OF STATE, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT AS WE HAVE DONE OVER THESE PAST YEARS.

AS HE MAKES CLEAR IN HIS MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN MAO, THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO MAINTAIN THE MAIN LINES OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY THAT WERE SHAPED DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION. THIS INCLUDES A STRONG INTERNATIONAL ROLE AND VIGOROUSLY PURSUED OUR COURSE IN SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH, AND ENDORSES, BOTH OUR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS AND OUR POLICIES TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

THE RECENT DIFFICULTY IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE BASIC STRENGTH AND WILL OF THIS NATION. INDEED, I

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BELIEVE THAT WE WILL EMERGE ALL THE STRONGER FROM THE DIFFICULT PASSAGES THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED. WE HAVE SHOWN IN RECENT MONTHS OUR CONTINUING DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE WORLD ROLE; EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES, I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE, ARE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD THE BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR OUR FOREIGN POLICIES, INCLUDING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WILL BE EVEN MORE VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED. WE WILL SHOW CONSTANCY OF PURPOSE AND CONTINUITY OF POLICY.

I NEED NOT ADD THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THERE IS NO HIGHER OBJECTIVE THAT I PERSONALLY HAVE.

AS AMBASSADOR BRUCE TOLD YOU, I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RECENT MEDICAL PROBLEMS. I AM VERY GRAFIIFIED TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVE RECOVERED AND WISH YOU CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH.

HENRY A. KISSINGER

END TEXT.
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